

ACTION

PICTURE
LIBRARY
No.11 One Shilling



**ALL THRILLS!
A "DEAD" MAN
CAUGHT UP IN A
WEB OF SPIES!**

A dynamic illustration for a movie poster. In the foreground, a man in a dark suit and light-colored trousers is running towards the viewer with a determined expression, his arms outstretched. Behind him, another man in a dark suit is running, holding a handgun. In the background, a third man is visible, and a car is partially visible on the left. The scene is set against a dramatic, cloudy sky.

BACK FROM THE DEAD

MEN OF ACTION...

who displayed cool courage in the heat of battle

In January, 1944, the Allied armies landed at Cassino, Italy. Initially the landings went well, but the German commander, Field-Marshal Kesselring, quickly counter-attacked and the beachhead was contained. Major William Sidney of the Grenadier Guards was awarded the Victoria Cross during the landings, for superb courage and



utter disregard of danger. Though wounded and single-handed, Major Sidney drove off several enemy counter-attacks on his position, actions which, in the words of the official citation to his award, 'had vitally far-reaching consequences on the battle as a whole.'

BACK FROM THE DEAD

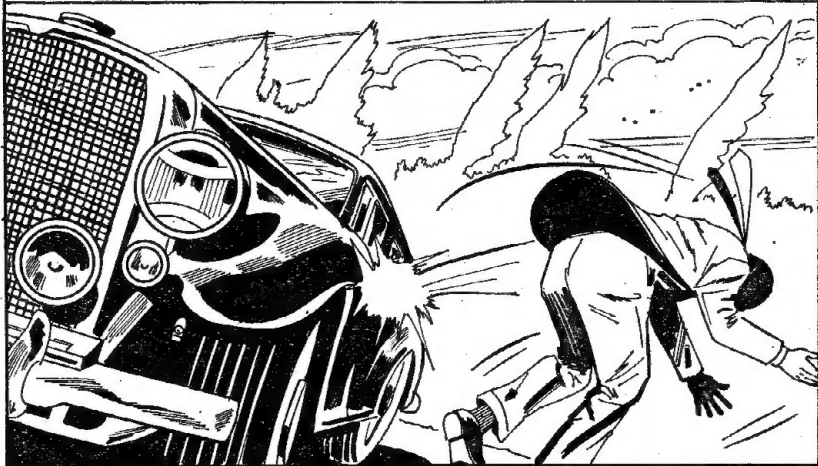
AS STEVEN GIFFORD WATCHED THE BLACK AND GLEAMING UNDERTAKERS' CARS ROLL SLOWLY AND SOLEMNLY INTO THE CEMETERY, HIS EMOTIONS WERE OF SHOCK AND HORROR. FOR HE WAS WATCHING HIS OWN FUNERAL !

WHAT THE HECK'S THAT GUY DOING? HE'LL BE RUN OVER IF HE DOESN'T LOOK OUT!

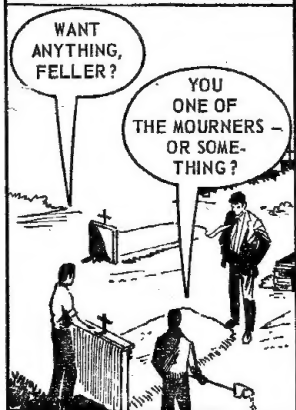
HE MUST BE DRUNK! YOU'D THINK HE'D HAVE MORE RESPECT.



SCARCELY KNOWING WHAT HE WAS DOING, DR. STEVEN GIFFORD, A BRILLIANT YOUNG SPACE SCIENTIST, STUMBLED INTO THE PATH OF ONE CAR AND WAS SENT SPRAWLING...



THE FUNERAL CORTÈGE PASSED ON AND LATER, GIFFORD WENT TO WHERE THE COFFIN HAD BEEN INTERRED...



BUT GIFFORD DID NOT REPLY - HE WAS STARING AT THE HEADSTONE OVER THE GRAVE.



WATCHED CURIOUSLY BY THE GRAVE-DIGGERS, HE SAT ON A NEARBY TOMBSTONE AND TRIED TO THINK THINGS OUT, FOR THE LAST FEW WEEKS HAD BEEN LIKE A CRAZY NIGHTMARE.

A NUT-CASE, IF EVER THERE WAS ONE!



I LOST MY MEMORY, I KNOW THAT. BUT IT'S BEGINNING TO COME BACK SLOWLY — THAT KNOCKDOWN BY THE CAR CLICKED A FEW THINGS INTO PLACE.



HE REMEMBERED NOW THAT HE HAD COME TO FERGUSVILLE TO ATTEND A CONFERENCE. HE HAD BEEN WORKING LATE, WRITING UP HIS NOTES ON HIS NEW LASER THEORY...



A SUDDEN SOUND BEHIND HIM HAD BROUGHT HIM WHIRLING AROUND...



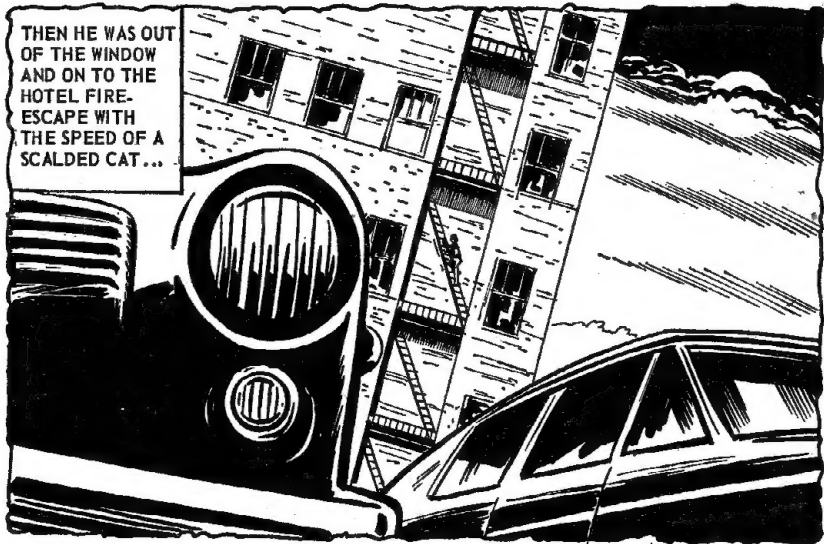
STEVE, YOUNG AND STRONG, GRAPPLED WITH HIS ASSAILANT...

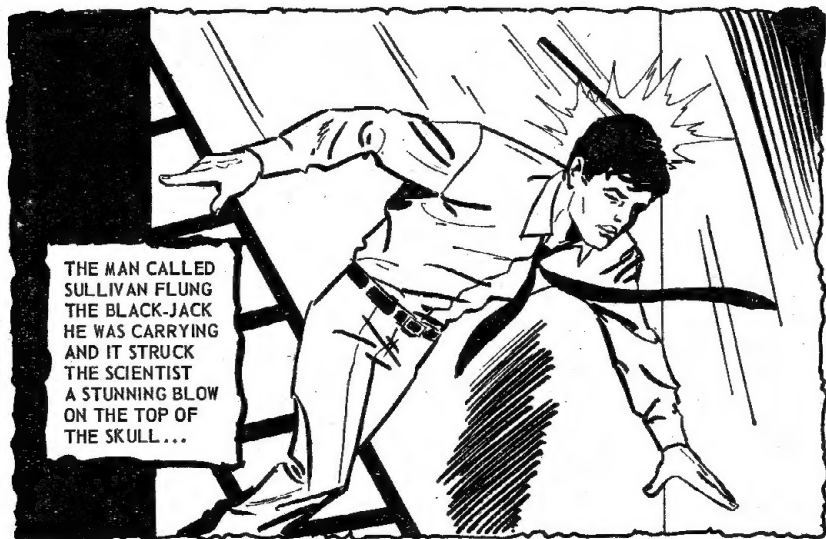


THEN ANOTHER MAN CAME RUSHING IN, AND STEVE REALISED THAT THE ODDS AGAINST HIM WERE NOW TOO GREAT.



THEN HE WAS OUT OF THE WINDOW AND ON TO THE HOTEL FIRE-ESCAPE WITH THE SPEED OF A SCALDED CAT...





HE BLACKED OUT, AND FELL...



BY SOME MIRACLE, THE BUSHES BELOW CUSHIONED HIS FALL. INSTINCTIVELY, LIKE A WOUNDED ANIMAL, STEVEN GIFFORD CRAWLED OFF INTO HIDING...



HE DID NOT KNOW HOW LONG HE CROUCHED THERE, AFRAID TO COME OUT INTO THE OPEN. BUT AFTER A WHILE, HE SAW THE TWO MEN WHO HAD ATTACKED HIM CARRYING THE BODY OF A MAN TOWARDS A CAR.

WE'VE GOT TO GO THROUGH WITH IT NOW, KIMBER...



THE MEN LAID THE BODY ON THE GROUND AS ONE OF THEM OPENED THE BOOT OF THE CAR. THE DEAD MAN'S FACE WAS ONLY FEET AWAY FROM STEVE'S HIDING-PLACE...

MERCIFUL HEAVENS - THAT'S ME! I'M LOOKING AT MY OWN DEAD BODY!



AT THAT MOMENT, EVEN HIS OWN NAME ELUDED HIM. BUT HE RECOGNISED HIS OWN FACE!



THE WORDS, UTTERED HALF-ALOUD, REACHED THE EARS OF THE KILLERS.



STEVE SPRANG TO HIS FEET AND RAN FOR HIS LIFE...



A BULLET WHISTLED PAST, SPURRING HIM TO EVEN GREATER SPEED...



A WIDE RIVER CUT OFF HIS LINE OF ESCAPE, BUT HE DARE NOT TURN ASIDE...

HE'S GONNA
TAKE TO THE
WATER!

ALL THE
BETTER! HE'LL
BE AN EASY
TARGET...



STEVE STRUCK OUT DESPERATELY BUT HE HAD NOT GONE FAR WHEN TWO BULLETS STRUCK THE WATER CLOSE BY...



DAZED THOUGH HE WAS, HE HAD SENSE ENOUGH TO THROW UP ONE ARM AND GO UNDER AS THOUGH HE HAD BEEN MORTALLY HIT...

GOT HIM!

YEAH, IF THAT SHOT DIDN'T KILL HIM OUTRIGHT HE'LL DROWN FOR SURE. THIS RIVER IS A KILLER...

BUT STEVE WAS A VERY STRONG SWIMMER. HE SWAM A LONG WAY UNDER WATER, LETTING THE CURRENT CARRY HIM DOWN. RIVER.



SITTING THERE IN THE FERGUSVILLE CEMETERY, FRAGMENTS OF THE PAST WERE COMING BACK, BUT THERE WERE LARGE GAPS. HE NEEDED HELP AND ONE NAME CAME TO HIM ...



THE PROFESSOR HIMSELF ANSWERED THE DOOR, AND WHEN HE RECOGNISED STEVE HE STARED AS THOUGH HE HAD SEEN A GHOST...





THE PROFESSOR GAVE HIM A DRINK, AND LISTENED SYMPATHETICALLY AS STEVE TOLD HIM ALL HE REMEMBERED OF THE PREVIOUS FEW WEEKS.



EVEN AS HE MENTIONED THE WORD, 'DOUBLE', ANOTHER PIECE OF THE JIGSAW PUZZLE SLOTTED INTO PLACE.

OF COURSE! I HAD A DOUBLE - GUY CALLED HAINES. BECAUSE I WAS ENGAGED ON SECRET WORK, THE SPACE AGENCY SECURITY MEN INSISTED ON IT. THEY WERE SCARED SOMEONE WOULD HAVE A GO AT ME. SEEMS THEY WERE RIGHT!



THEN THE KILLERS MUST HAVE KILLED THE DOUBLE, AND DISCOVERED THEIR MISTAKE TOO LATE. THEY WENT BACK TO GET YOU WHILE THE DOUBLE, POOR GUY, LAY DEAD ON THE GROUND AT THE BACK OF THE HOTEL.

TELL ME, PROFESSOR, HOW WAS I SUPPOSED TO HAVE DIED?.

YOUR DOUBLE'S BODY WAS FOUND ON THE HIGHWAY JUST OUTSIDE TOWN, THE VICTIM OF A HIT-AND-RUN ACCIDENT.



THAT MEANS THE KILLERS FAKED THE HIT-AND-RUN AFTER THEY SHOT ME IN THE RIVER. IN OTHER WORDS, THEY WANTED THE BODY TO BE IDENTIFIED AS ME FOR SOME REASON. THE BODY IN THE RIVER MIGHT NOT HAVE TURNED UP FOR MONTHS.

I MUST GO TO THE POLICE AND GET THIS ALL STRAIGHTENED OUT.

NO, WAIT! I KNOW DON COWPER, HEAD OF SECURITY. I'LL GO HAVE A WORD WITH COWPER AND TOMORROW, WE'LL FIX EVERYTHING. I'LL GET YOU A MEAL, AND YOU CAN GO STRAIGHT TO BED HERE...



THE PROFESSOR WAS VERY KIND AND REASSURING...



THIS IS A MILD SEDATIVE, YOU'LL FEEL BETTER AFTER A GOOD SLEEP. I'LL GO STRAIGHT AWAY AND SEE COWPER...

BUT INSTEAD OF GOING TO SEE COWPER, PROFESSOR SLADEN DROVE TO THE "BETHANY REST HOME" - A PRIVATE MENTAL INSTITUTION.

DOCTOR LOVELL, I HAVE A YOUNG GUY BACK HOME WHO THINKS HE'S THE LATE STEVEN GIFFORD. I WANT TO KEEP IT QUIET, AS I KNEW HIS FATHER WELL. CAN YOU KEEP HIM HERE FOR A SPELL? I'LL PAY THE BILLS, OF COURSE.



WE'VE PLENTY OF GUESTS WHO THINK THEY'RE SOMEONE ELSE - NAPOLEON, EISENHOWER, EVEN JULIUS CAESAR. SOME OF THEM WE EVEN CURE.

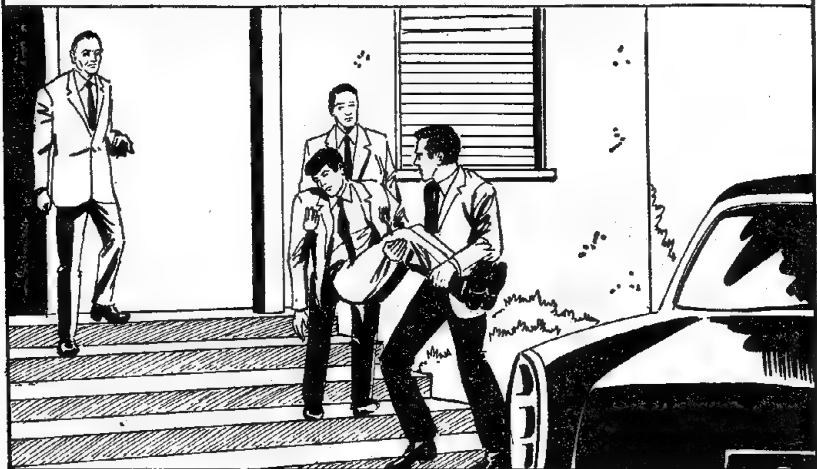
NEXT MORNING, PROFESSOR SLADEN GAVE STEVE A BREAKFAST...



I FIXED EVERYTHING UP. DON COWPER IS SENDING A CAR FOR YOU, WITH A COUPLE OF HIS MEN AS PROTECTION...

SURE IS GOOD OF YOU, PROFESSOR.

BUT THE BREAKFAST HAD BEEN DOPED. SOON AFTER HE HAD FINISHED, STEVE STARTED TO YAWN. BY THE TIME THE CAR CAME HE WAS UNCONSCIOUS...



HE WAS STILL OUT COLD WHEN THEY ARRIVED AT THE BETHANY REST HOME AND TOOK HIM UP TO HIS ROOM...



WHEN STEVE DID RECOVER CONSCIOUSNESS, HE STARED AROUND HIM TRYING TO MAKE OUT WHERE HE WAS. THEN HE NOTICED THE BARS ACROSS THE WINDOW...



DESPITE A SPLITTING HEAD-ACHE, STEVE GOT OFF THE BED, AND WRENCHED AT THE DOOR HANDLE. THE DOOR WAS LOCKED!



THEN THE TRUTH SWEEPED OVER HIM...



THE PROFESSOR
MUST HAVE ARRANGED
IT! HE TRICKED
ME! I WAS DOPED
IN HIS HOUSE.

THE FULL SIGNIFICANCE OF SLADEN'S
TREACHERY SANK IN...

THIS IS SOMETHING BIGGER EVEN THAN
I THOUGHT. THE PROFESSOR IS A
VERY INFLUENTIAL MAN IN THE
COMMITTEES THAT DEAL WITH THE
MILITARY SIDE OF THE SPACE
PROGRAMME. GRIEF! IF HE'S
WORKING FOR THE OTHER SIDE...



I'VE GOT
TO GET OUT
OF HERE SOMEHOW!
IF I CAN ONLY REACH
THE CENTRAL SPACE
CENTRE. I'LL BE
AMONGST PEOPLE
WHO KNOW ME. THEN
SLADEN WILL GET
WHAT'S COMING
TO HIM!

MEANWHILE, THE PROFESSOR WAS PUTTING IN A TELEPHONE CALL...

IS THAT YOU,
SULLIVAN? I WANT
YOU AND KIMBER OVER
HERE - AS QUICKLY AS
POSSIBLE! AND NO
ARGUMENTS!



EVEN THE TWO COLD-BLOODED KILLERS QUAILED BEFORE THE PROFESSOR'S FURY...

BY GLORY! YOU'VE
MADE AN ALMIGHTY MESS
OF EVERYTHING!
GIFFORD'S ALIVE - HE CAME
HERE YESTERDAY!

SUFFERING
CATS! I WAS
CERTAIN WE'D
NAILED HIM!



YOU BOOBED FROM THE VERY BEGINNING. FIRST YOU KILL THE WRONG MAN, AND THEN WHEN YOU'VE GOT THE RIGHT ONE WHERE YOU WANT HIM, YOU FOUL THAT UP, TOO!



SLADEN WENT ON...

FORTUNATELY I'VE GOT GIFFORD IN THE BETHANY ASYLUM, AND THEY'LL BE KEEPING HIM THERE. BUT AS LONG AS HE'S ALIVE HE'S A DANGER.



YOU MEAN — YOU WANT US TO ATTEND TO HIM, BOSS?

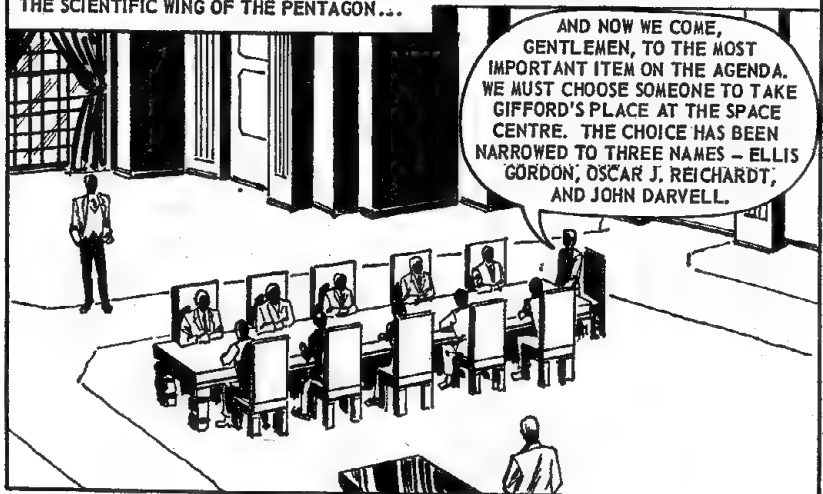
THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT I MEAN! IT MAY TAKE A LITTLE WHILE BEFORE YOU GET THE OPPORTUNITY, BUT I WANT IT DONE — AND PROPERLY, THIS TIME!



IN BETHANY, STEVE GIFFORD WAS BEHAVING LIKE A MODEL INMATE...



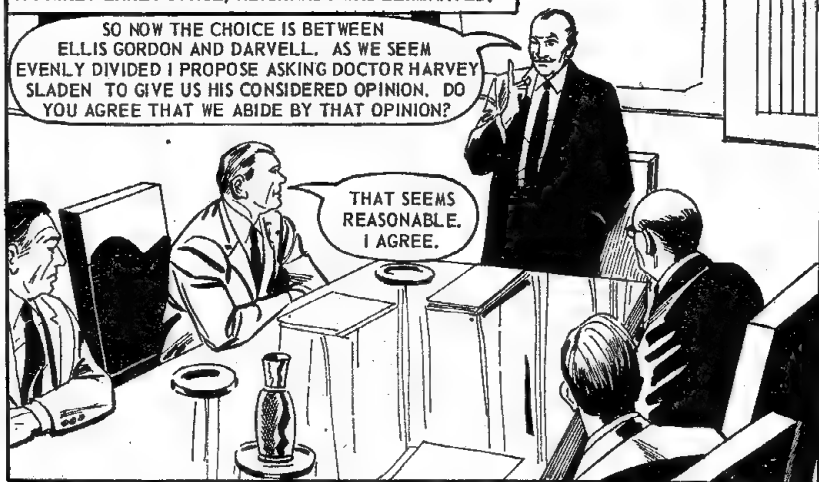
MEANWHILE, PROFESSOR SLADEN WAS ATTENDING A HIGH-LEVEL CONFERENCE IN THE SCIENTIFIC WING OF THE PENTAGON...



THE DISCUSSION WAS LONG, AND SOMETIMES HEATED. AT A FAIRLY EARLY STAGE, REICHARDT WAS ELIMINATED.

SO NOW THE CHOICE IS BETWEEN ELLIS GORDON AND DARVELL. AS WE SEEM EVENLY DIVIDED I PROPOSE ASKING DOCTOR HARVEY SLADEN TO GIVE US HIS CONSIDERED OPINION. DO YOU AGREE THAT WE ABIDE BY THAT OPINION?

THAT SEEMS REASONABLE. I AGREE.

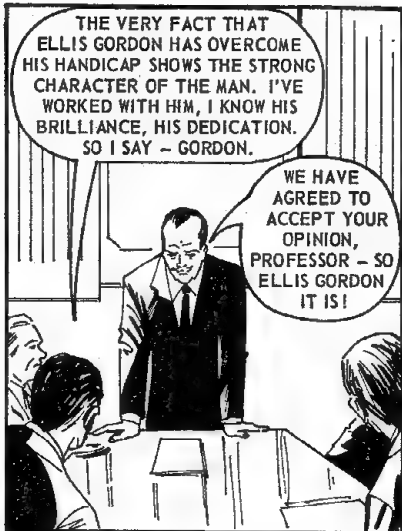


I'M SURE IN MY OWN MIND, GENTLEMEN, THAT ELLIS GORDON SHOULD BE OUR MAN. AS YOU KNOW, HE LOST AN ARM IN HIS CAR ACCIDENT AND NOW WEARS A STEEL HOOK. BUT WE ARE LOOKING FOR A SCIENTIST, NOT AN ATHLETE, GENTLEMEN!



THE VERY FACT THAT ELLIS GORDON HAS OVERCOME HIS HANDICAP SHOWS THE STRONG CHARACTER OF THE MAN. I'VE WORKED WITH HIM, I KNOW HIS BRILLIANCE, HIS DEDICATION. SO I SAY - GORDON.

WE HAVE AGREED TO ACCEPT YOUR OPINION, PROFESSOR - SO ELLIS GORDON IT IS!



THAT NIGHT AN EXULTANT PROFESSOR SLADEN VISITED ELLIS GORDON AT HIS HOTEL...



IN BETHANY, THEY LET STEVE HAVE A DAILY PAPER. HE READ OF ELLIS GORDON'S APPOINTMENT...

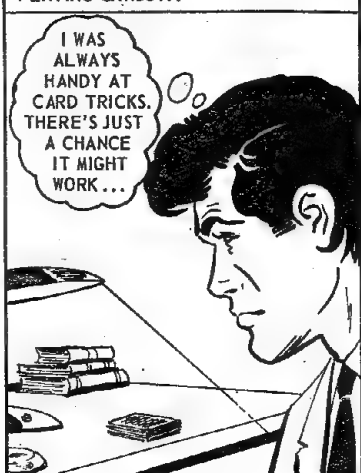


NOW, MORE THAN EVER, STEVE GIFFORD HAD TO GET OUT OF BETHANY.



THERE'S NOT A HOPE OF FORCING A WAY OUT! I'VE GOT TO TRICK THEM. BUT HOW?

HIS GLANCE FELL ON A PACK OF PLAYING CARDS...



I WAS ALWAYS HANDY AT CARD TRICKS. THERE'S JUST A CHANCE IT MIGHT WORK...

EVEN WHILE THE YOUNG SCIENTIST WAS PLANNING TO BREAK OUT, THE TWO KILLERS WERE PLANNING TO BREAK IN...

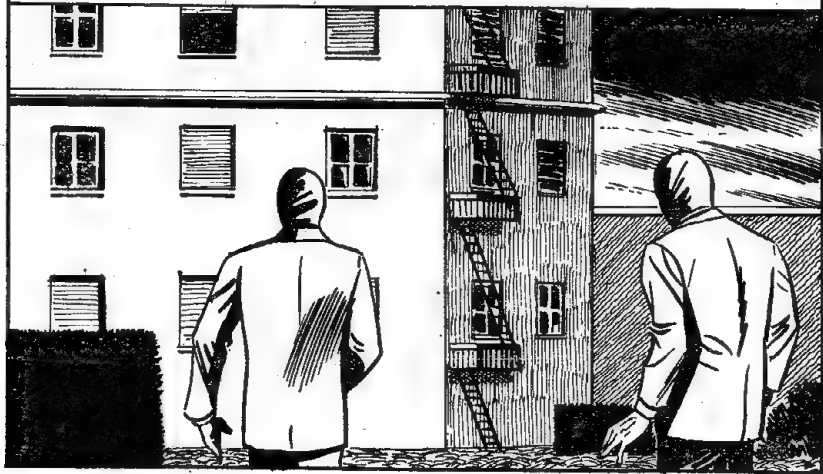


THE WALL'S NO DIFFICULTY. WE'LL TRY TONIGHT - SOON AFTER THE MOON RISES. WE'LL NEED A BIT OF LIGHT.

WHEN THE TIME CAME, THEY PARKED THEIR CAR AT THE REAR OF BETHANY. THEN THEY PULLED STOCKING MASKS OVER THEIR FACES AND GOT THEIR ROPE LADDER IN POSITION.



THEY PULLED THE LADDER UP AFTER THEM AND LEFT IT DANGLING INSIDE. THEN THEY CREPT TOWARDS THE REAR OF THE BUILDING.



UP IN HIS ROOM, STEVE WAS PLAYING WITH THE PACK OF CARDS WHEN THE ATTENDANT CAME IN WITH HIS EVENING MEAL. HE WATCHED, FASCINATED, AS STEVE MADE A CONCERTINA OF THE CARDS...



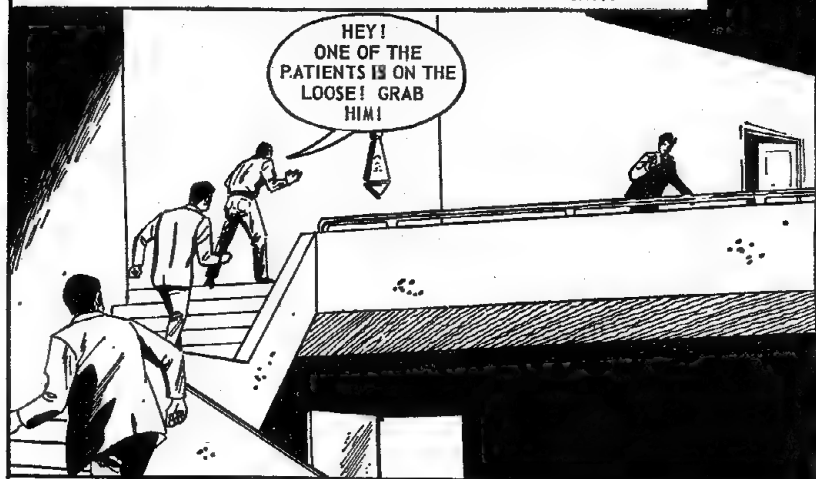
THIS TIME THE
ATTENDANT
STOOPED EVEN
CLOSER TO
WATCH THE
CARDS - AND
STEVE STRUCK!

UGH!

ANOTHER ATTENDANT WAS
WAITING IN THE CORRIDOR
- BUT STEVE GAVE HIM
NO CHANCE...

OUGH!

HE RAN FOR THE STAIRS – BUT UNFORTUNATELY, THREE ATTENDANTS WERE COMING UP IT AT THAT MOMENT. HE WAS FORCED TO TURN BACK...



DESPERATE NOW, STEVE TOOK TO HIS HEELS – AND THEN SPOTTED A HALF-OPEN DOOR.



IT WAS ONE OF THE STAFF BEDROOMS. STEVE SLAMMED THE DOOR ON HIS PURSUERS AND TURNED THE KEY IN THE LOCK...

DARN
IT! I'M
CORNERED!



HE HEARD THEM BATTERING AT THE DOOR AND KNEW THEY WOULD SOON BREAK IN. THERE WAS ONLY ONE OTHER WAY OUT OF THE ROOM - THE WINDOW!



A NARROW LEDGE RAN BELOW THE WINDOW TOWARDS A FIRE-ESCAPE. STEVE BEGAN TO EDGE ALONG IT, NOT DARING TO LOOK DOWN...



OUT IN THE GROUNDS, SULLIVAN AND KIMBER HAD BEEN ALARMED BY THE SHOUTS AND BANGING INSIDE. THEN THEY SPOTTED THE FIGURE HIGH ABOVE THE GROUND...



HEY!
LOOK -
THAT'S OUR
MAN!

BOY, OH
BOY! GIFFORD'S
PLAYING
RIGHT INTO OUR
HANDS!

THEY WATCHED HIM REACH THE FIRE-ESCAPE - AND THEN MOVED IN.



BUT BY THIS TIME, SOUNDS OF PURSUIT WERE GROWING INSIDE THE BUILDING. KIMBER GOT NERVOUS - AND FIRED WHILE STEVE WAS STILL ON THE FIRE-ESCAPE. IN HIS HASTE HE MISSED.



STARTLED, THE SCIENTIST JUMPED...

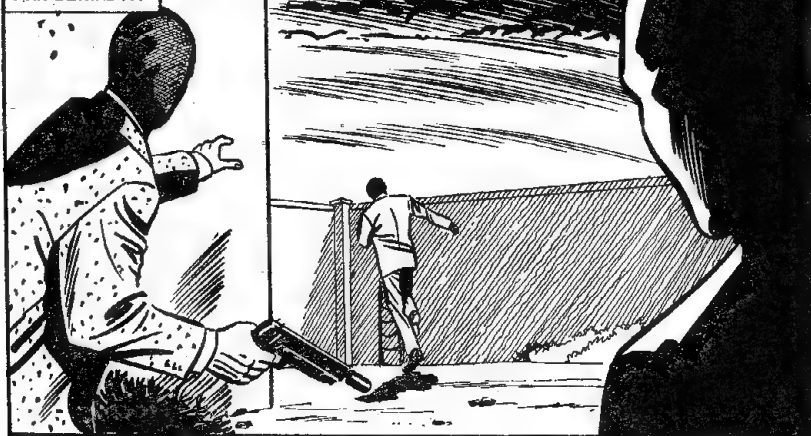


STEVE LANDED SPRAWLING ON THE SOFT EARTH OF A FLOWER BED. HE SCRAMBLED UP AND RAN FOR THE BOUNDARY WALL.

THAT SHOT WAS MEANT TO KILL! SLADEN MUST HAVE POSTED GUARDS OUTSIDE HERE IN CASE I TRIED TO ESCAPE...



THERE WAS NO GOING BACK NOW. HE HEADED FOR THE WALL -- AND AS LUCK WOULD HAVE IT, TOWARDS THE CORNER WHERE THE LADDER STILL DANGLED. THE TWO HOODED KILLERS WERE NOT FAR BEHIND...



FEAR AND DESPERATION LENT STEVE STRENGTH AND SPEED. HE WENT UP THE LADDER LIKE A CAT...



HE REACHED THE TOP OF THE WALL AND BEGAN TO PULL UP THE LADDER. BUT A BULLET REMINDED HIM THAT HE WAS TOO GOOD A TARGET...

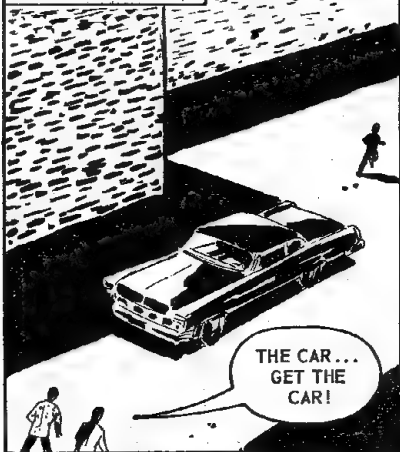


BUT WHEN HE DIVED BEHIND THE WHEEL, HE FOUND THAT THE KILLERS HAD TAKEN THE KEY...

DRAT IT!
I MIGHT'VE
KNOWN!



HE SCRAMBLED OUT AGAIN... AND RAN. BY THEN HIS PURSUERS WERE ALSO OVER THE WALL...



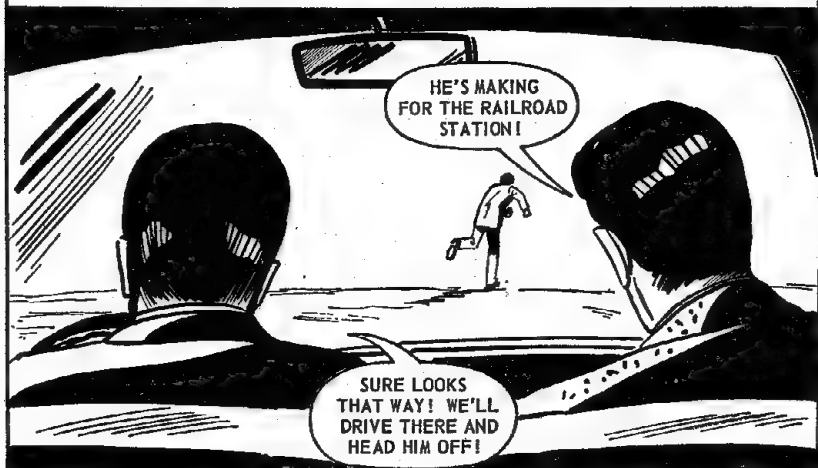
THE CAR...
GET THE
CAR!

STEP ON IT!
WE MUSTN'T LOSE
HIM NOW!

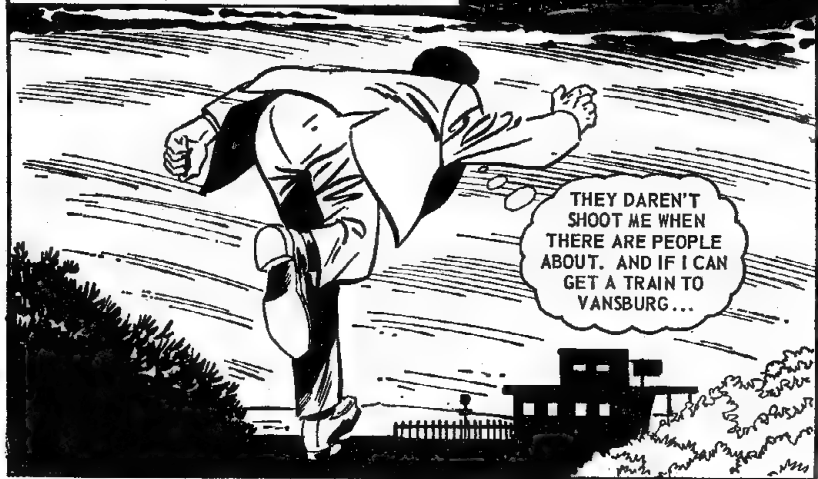
AW, SHUT
YOUR TRAP!
IF IT HADN'T BEEN
FOR YOU, WE WOULD
HAVE HAD HIM
COLD!



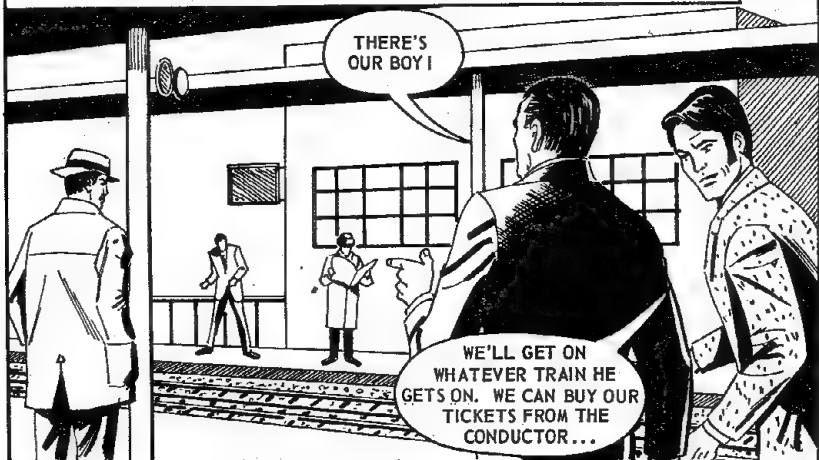
STEVE HEARD THE CAR START UP AND IMMEDIATELY SWERVED OFF THE ROAD. HE HEADED ACROSS THE FIELDS TOWARDS A CLUSTER OF LIGHTS IN THE DISTANCE.



TO THE HUNTED MAN, THE LIGHTS OF THE STATION SEEMED THE ONLY HOPE OF ESCAPE FROM THE RUTHLESS MEN ON HIS HEELS.



HE FOUND ENOUGH MONEY IN HIS POCKET TO PAY FOR A TICKET AND WENT ON TO THE PLATFORM. THE KILLERS FOUND HIM THERE...



IT WAS A STRANGE SITUATION. STEVE KNEW THAT NO-ONE WOULD BELIEVE HIM IF HE SAID HE WAS DR. STEVEN GIFFORD. HIS NAME WAS WELL KNOWN, BUT NOT HIS FACE, AND ANYWAY, EVERYONE THOUGHT GIFFORD WAS DEAD.



WHEN THE TRAIN CAME IN, STEVE MADE FOR ONE OF THE DAY-COACHES WHERE THERE SEEMED TO BE PLENTY OF PASSENGERS.

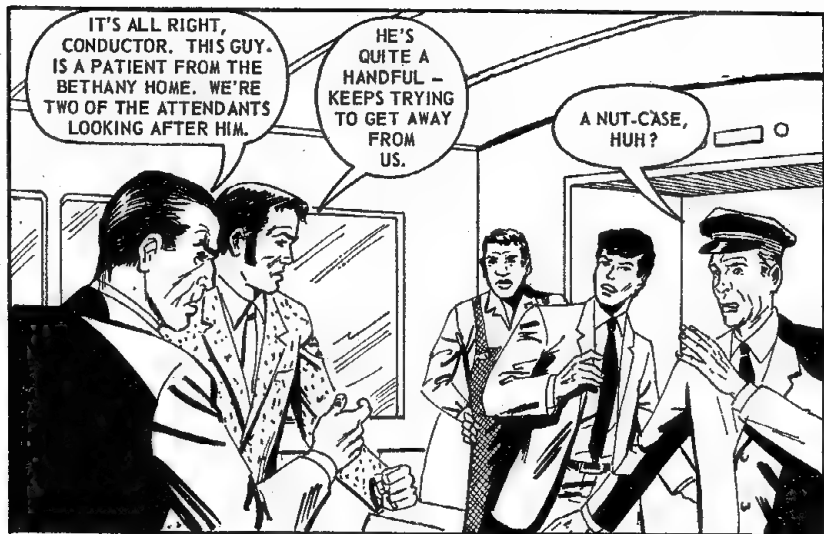


IT WAS AN EIGHTY-MILE RIDE TO VANSBURG AND AT FORT BENSON, ALL THE PASSENGERS IN THE COACH GOT OFF... SAVE STEVE AND THE TWO MEN WHO WERE AFTER HIM!



SULLIVAN AND KIMBER GOT MENACINGLY TO THEIR FEET, STEVE RAN FOR THE NEXT COACH... ONLY TO BE STOPPED BY THE CONDUCTOR AND A PORTER.





STEVE KNEW WHAT WOULD HAPPEN TO HIM ONCE THEY GOT HIM INTO A PRIVATE COMPARTMENT! HE GAVE THE CONDUCTOR A VIOLENT SHOVE...



HE DARTED OUT OF THE DOOR. THE TRAIN WAS GOING TOO FAST FOR HIM TO JUMP. IN DESPERATION, HE SCRAMBLED UP THE LADDER THAT LED TO THE ROOF OF THE COACH...



THE COACH WAS IN THE FRONT OF THE TRAIN, AND HE BEGAN TO RUN ALONG THE SWAYING ROOFS OF THE COACHES TOWARDS THE REAR.



BUT SULLIVAN AND KIMBER HAD SEEN HIM CLIMBING THE LADDER...

COME ON!
THE FOOL'S
PLAYED
RIGHT INTO OUR
HANDS! ONE
PUSH...





AND THEN STEVE SAW THE TUNNEL!



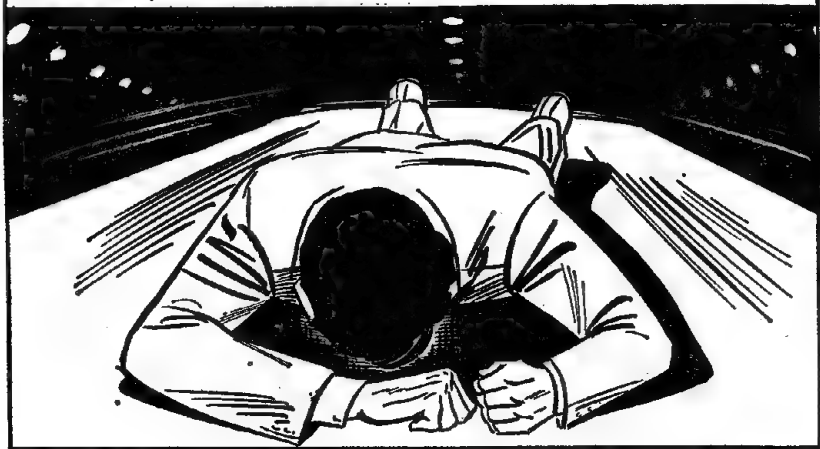
HE COULD NOT STIFLE THE INVOLUNTARY CRY OF WARNING THAT BROKE FROM HIS LIPS...



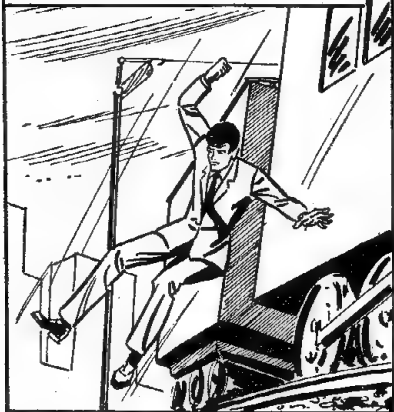
THEN, AS STEVE FLUNG HIMSELF FLAT, IT HAPPENED...



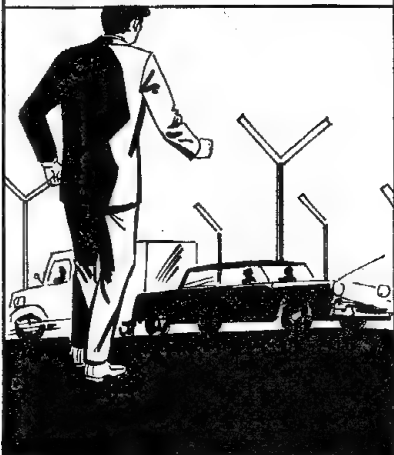
WITH A THUNDEROUS ROAR, THE TRAIN PLUNGED INTO THE TUNNEL AND HE HUGGED THE COACH TOP, FOR HIS VERY LIFE DEPENDED ON IT!



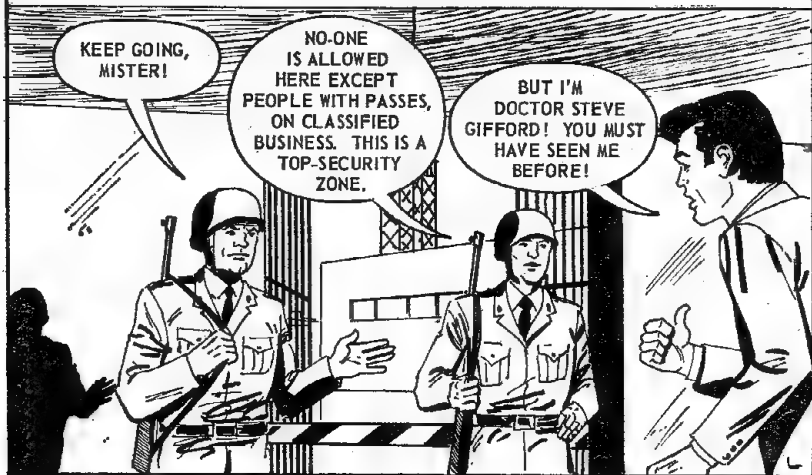
THE TRAIN HAD SCARCELY EMERGED FROM THE TUNNEL WHEN IT BEGAN TO SCREECH TO A HALT. THE CONDUCTOR MUST HAVE PULLED THE ALARM CORD. STEVE JUMPED OFF ...



DOG-TIRED, STRAINED AND UNKEMPT, HE HURRIED OUT ON TO THE ROAD THAT LED TOWARDS VANSBURG ...



HE HITCHED A RIDE TO THE VICINITY OF THE SPACE CENTRE, THEN WALKED TO THE MAIN ENTRANCE. THE SECURITY GUARDS STARED COLDLY AT HIM ...



THE GUARDS LOOKED AT EACH OTHER, AND ONE OF THEM TAPPED HIS HEAD SIGNIFICANTLY...



FRANTIC, STEVE STARTED TO MAKE A DASH PAST THEM, BUT THE GUARDS PROMPTLY WENT FOR THEIR GUNS...



STEVE HAD TO OBEY... THE MEN WERE NOT BLUFFING.



FRUSTRATED, STEVE TURNED AWAY AND HEADED BACK DOWN THE ROAD. AS HE DID SO, A LINE OF CARS CAME SWOOPING UP THE ROAD, AND STOPPED AS THE GUARDS CAME TO EXAMINE THE LEADING CAR'S DRIVER...



AT HIS WITS END, STEVE WALKED AWAY. BY THAT TIME, A LINE OF CARS WAS QUEUEING TO ENTER THE CENTRE. HE CAME TO THE LAST ONE, WENT PAST IT... AND THEN PAUSED. CREEPING BEHIND IT, HE TRIED THE LUGGAGE BOOT...



GINGERLY, HE CLIMBED INSIDE AND GENTLY PULLED DOWN THE LID UNTIL IT WAS NOT QUITE SHUT.



THE CAR MOVED ON, STOPPED AT THE GATES, AND WAS THEN ALLOWED INSIDE. WHEN IT CAME TO A STOP A SECOND TIME, STEVE CAUTIOUSLY RAISED THE LID AND LOOKED OUT.



THE YOUNG SCIENTIST COULD HAVE FOUND HIS WAY AROUND THE AREA BLINDFOLDED. HE SLIPPED OUT AND MADE HIS WAY TOWARDS THE TESTING LABORATORY...



ONCE AGAIN HE WAS STOPPED BY A GUARD... THIS TIME AT THE ENTRANCE TO THE LABORATORY BUILDING.



THE GUARD LOOKED CLOSER AND GAVE AN EXCLAMATION OF STUNNED INCREDULITY.



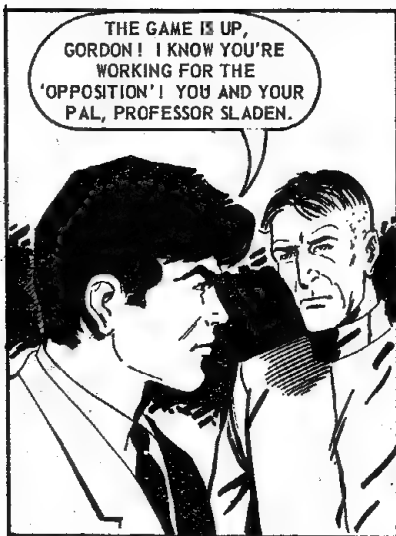
WHEN STEVE OPENED THE DOOR OF THE EXPERIMENTAL CHAMBER AND WALKED QUIETLY IN, ELLIS GORDON, BENT OVER A CLOSED CIRCUIT T.V. RECORDING PANEL, WHIRLED...



GORDON'S FACE WENT A STRANGE, BILIOUS GREEN ...



THE GAME IS UP,
GORDON! I KNOW YOU'RE
WORKING FOR THE
'OPPOSITION'! YOU AND YOUR
PAL, PROFESSOR SLADEN.



ELLIS GORDON RAN HIS TONGUE
NERVOUSLY ALONG HIS DRY LIPS...



GORDON'S RESPONSE WAS SUDDEN AND UNEXPECTED. ...

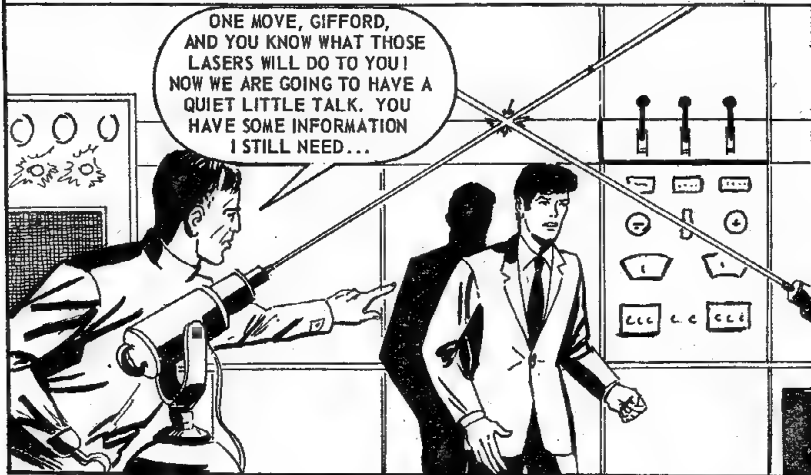


DIDN'T EXPECT ME TO CARRY A GUN, DID YOU? BUT I'M PLAYING A DANGEROUS GAME, GIFFORD, AND THERE'S ALWAYS THE CHANCE THAT I MAY HAVE TO SHOOT MY WAY OUT. NOW BACK UP AGAINST THE WALL.



KEEPING STEVE COVERED, GORDON SWITCHED ON TWO LASER LAMPS. AIMING THEM SO THAT THE RAYS CROSSED AND FORMED A BIG 'V' IN WHICH STEVE WAS IMPRISONED.

ONE MOVE, GIFFORD, AND YOU KNOW WHAT THOSE LASERS WILL DO TO YOU! NOW WE ARE GOING TO HAVE A QUIET LITTLE TALK. YOU HAVE SOME INFORMATION I STILL NEED...





STEVE REACHED A FEW INCHES FOR A SWITCH NEAR HIS HAND AND JERKED IT DOWN. THERE WAS A FLASH AS THE SWITCH WENT HOME. AN INVISIBLE HAND SEEMED TO PLUCK GORDON UP TO THE CEILING, WHERE HE HUNG, SUSPENDED BY HIS STEEL CLAW.

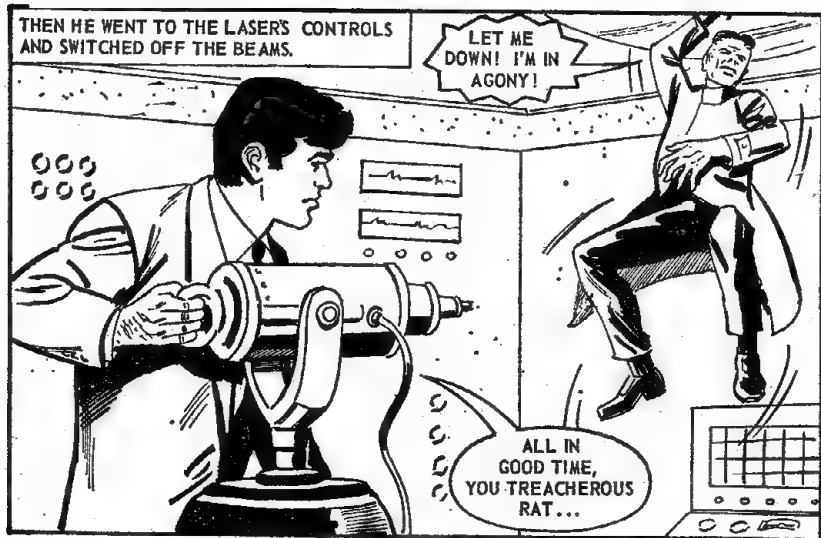




VERY SLOWLY AND CAREFULLY, STEVE BENT DOWN AND CREEPT UNDER THE LASER BEAMS.



THEN HE WENT TO THE LASERS' CONTROLS AND SWITCHED OFF THE BEAMS.



HE WHEELED A TROLLEY SO THAT GORDON COULD STAND ON IT AND TAKE THE WEIGHT OFF HIS STEEL CLAW. BUT THE TRAITOR WAS STILL HELD TO THE MAGNET LIKE A FLY TO FLY-PAPER.



STEVE SWITCHED ON ONE OF THE LASER BEAMS AGAIN... AND ALSO A TAPE-RECORDER...

NOW, GORDON...
IT'S YOUR TURN TO ANSWER
QUESTIONS, OR BE SLICED
UP BY THIS LASER!



HE WAS BLUFFING... BUT THE BLUFF WORKED, PARTICULARLY WHEN THE BEAM BEGAN TO SINGE GORDON'S COAT.

OKAY,
OKAY! YES,
I'M WORKING FOR
THE OTHER SIDE...
AND SO IS
PROFESSOR
SLADEN! HE
WAS RECRUITED
SIX MONTHS
AGO...



AFTER GORDON HAD GIVEN HIM THE NAMES OF FOUR OTHER FOREIGN AGENTS IN THE SPACE PROGRAMME, STEVE TURNED OFF THE LASERS, AND SWITCHED OFF THE MAGNET.



STEVE OPENED THE DOOR AND CALLED IN THE GUARD...

GET THE
SECURITY PEOPLE
HERE, JAKE, AND
ANY OF THE TOP
BOFFINS WHO ARE
AVAILABLE...



THE CLIMAX CAME A WEEK LATER WHEN, AFTER BEING HEADLINED IN THE PAPERS, STEVE GIFFORD WAS SUMMONED TO THE OFFICE OF THE HEAD OF THE CIA - THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY.



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Tough...Dramatic...

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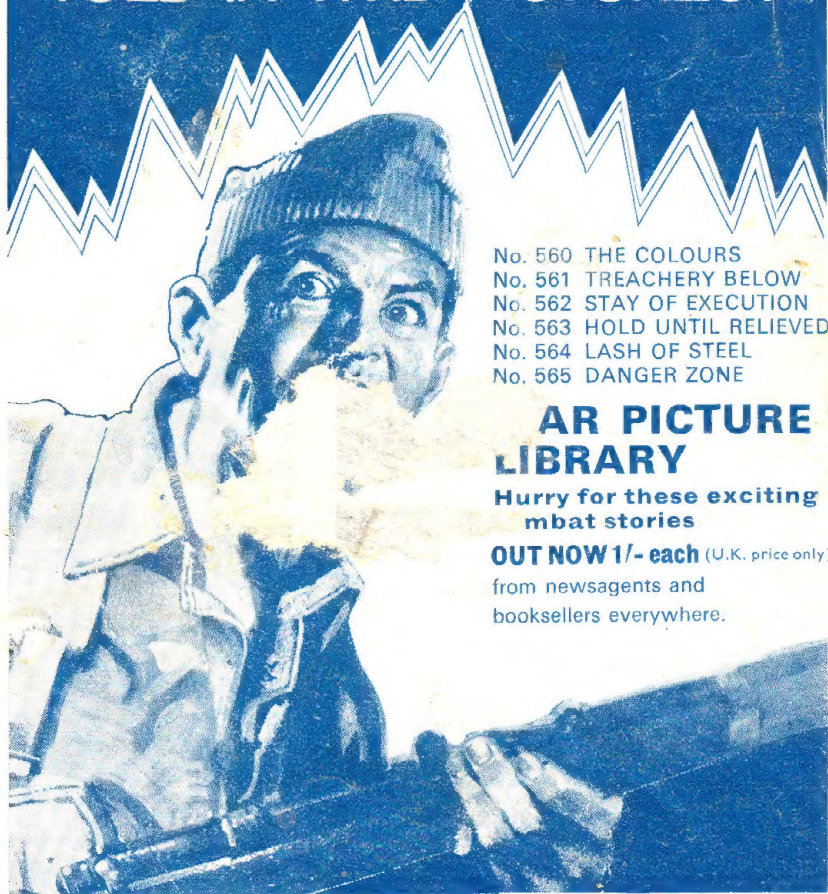
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